

XXXVIII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 310.]

52. *Andrews on a Skeleton of Megalapteryx.*

[On a Complete Skeleton of *Megalapteryx tenuipes* in the Tring Museum. By C. W. Andrews. *Novitates Zool.* iv. p. 188.]

The well-preserved and nearly complete skeleton of *Megalapteryx tenuipes* in the Tring Museum is described and illustrated in this paper. It was discovered in a cave at Pockeroy Nelson, in the South Island of New Zealand, about 1865. It is now certain that *Megalapteryx* is in all respects Dinornithine, and does not belong to the Apterygidæ.

53. *Annals of Scottish Natural History.*

[The *Annals of Scottish Natural History*, a Quarterly Magazine, with which is incorporated 'The Scottish Naturalist.' No. 25, January 1898, and No. 26, April 1898.]

In No. 25, the first paper which comes within our scope is one on the Minor Faunal Areas of Scotland, by Mr. J. A. Harvie-Brown, who advocates the division (for the more accurate study of such phenomena as those of distribution and dispersal) of larger areas into smaller ones, and has already given us an example of how this may be done in the case of Scotland, which he has separated into "minor faunal areas" from "topographical and faunal standpoints." In a similar way he believes that England may be divided into six or seven "Natural Faunal Areas," of which the Rev. H. A. Macpherson's "Lakeland" would be one. To do this satisfactorily he points out that we require an "accumulation of facts, combined with the ability to draw fairly accurate deductions from them." Here is an excellent opening for work for some of our many students of British bird-life. May we venture to ask Mr. Harvie-Brown and others who are writing on this subject to avoid the use of the dubious term "*watershed*," which has been used in two senses, and to employ in its stead either "*water-basin*" or "*water-parting*," whichever they may mean. See Huxley's '*Physiography*' on this point.

Mr. W. Eagle Clarke follows with an article on Hybrids between the Capercaillie and the Pheasant. Mr. Peter Adair

contributes notes on the Birds of Ettrick, in which an important feature is the record of the diminution in the numbers of the Short-eared Owl in the district since the subsidence of the plague of voles in 1893. The nesting of the Wigeon in the above area during the last three years marks a southward extension of the breeding-range of that species, and more evidence will shortly be received on this point. That Col. W. C. Verner should have shot a Long-eared Owl in North Uist is fairly surprising, but it is nothing to the fact that Capt. Savile Reid and Mr. W. R. Ogilvie Grant found a *nest* of this species *on the ground* on an island in Loch Syre, Sutherlandshire, and in proof thereof one of the parent birds is in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington. Mr. George Sim records a female example of the Lesser Kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) shot in Aberdeenshire on October 25, 1897, and there are other notices of minor interest.

No. 26 opens with a contribution to the Avifauna of West Ross-shire by Mr. J. B. Dobbie, and Mr. J. MacRury follows with some Additions to and Notes upon the birds of the Island of Barra. Mr. John Paterson expresses his dissatisfaction with some supposed remarks of Saunders respecting the relative abundance of the Garden-Warbler and the Black-cap "south of the Grampians;" but we venture to remark that there is no mention of the Grampians in the 1st or the 2nd edition of the 'Manual,' and that after reading and re-reading the passages on the distribution of those species, we are still completely in the dark as to Mr. Paterson's meaning. Mr. Bolam writes to say that Mr. Sim's claim for *Scotland* of a Red-footed Falcon shot near Hauxley is misleading, for Hauxley is in Northumberland, and quite 30 miles south of the Border; and really these "raiders" cannot be allowed to "prick" so far with impunity. Mr. T. E. Buckley's record of the Great Skua in the Moray Firth on October 15th deserves notice for locality and date.

54. *Arrigoni degli Oddi's Notes on Italian Ornithology.*

[(1) Nota sopra una Varietà di Colorito osservata in un *Anas boschas* Linn. Del Prof. E. Arrigoni degli Oddi. Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat. Milano, xxxvii. p. 208.

(2) Sopra gli Ibridi del tipo *Anas boscas* Linn. e *Chaulelasmus streperus* (Linn.) colti in Italia. Del Prof. E. Arrigoni degli Oddi. Atti R. Instit. Veneto d. Sci. ser. 7, viii. p. 1540.

(3) Le Recenti Comparses del *Puffinus kuhli* (Boie) nel Veneziano. Del Prof. E. Arrigoni degli Oddi. Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat. Milano, xxxvii. p. 211.

(4) La Nidificazione del *Milvus nigrans* Boddaert nel Territorio Veronese. Per Prof. E. Arrigoni degli Oddi. Atti R. Instit. Veneto d. Sci. ser. 7, ix. p. 93.]

A cinnamomeous (*chlorocrostica*) variation in plumage of a female Mallard (*Anas boscas*) occurring in a specimen killed near Venice in the spring of 1893 is described in the first paper.

In the second Prof. Arrigoni describes five examples of wild-bred Anatidæ between *Anas boscas* and *Chaulelasmus streperus* that have been met with in Italy. About 12 other examples of this cross are stated to be known to have occurred in other parts of the world.

Puffinus kuhli, although well known all over the Mediterranean, appears to be comparatively scarce in the Northern Adriatic. Prof. Arrigoni in the third paper records the occurrence of 20 specimens of this bird near Venice in the spring of last year, of which eight were preserved in various collections.

After a summary of the statements of previous authorities upon the occurrence of the Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*) in the various districts of Italy, the writer describes at full length in the fourth paper a regular breeding-place of this bird in the "bosco del Grezzano," near Villafranca, in the province of Verona. The Kites arrive here in the middle of March, and remain until August and September. Copious details are given of their nests, eggs, food, and habits, and accurate descriptions of the plumages of the young and adults of both sexes.

55. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xv. Nos. 1, 2, January & April, 1898.]

An obituarial notice, with portrait, of the much-regretted Capt. Bendire occupies the first place in the January part of our transatlantic contemporary. This is followed by an article

by Mr. W. Richmond on the Cayenne Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*), with a coloured plate of the bird and its curiously-shaped nest, which, however, we may remark, has already been well described by Mr. Quelch (see Bull. B. O. C. vi. p. xxvii, and Ibis, 1897, p. 263)—a fact which Mr. Richmond ought not to have overlooked. Dr. Coues contributes a hitherto unpublished letter from W. Swainson to J. Audubon, in which a literary partnership is declined. Dr. J. C. Merrill concludes his "Notes on the Birds of Fort Sherman, Idaho"; Mr. H. C. Oberholser distinguishes the Texan form of the Humming-bird *Amazilia cerviniventris* Gould as *A. c. chalconota* subsp. n.; Mr. A. W. Anthony distinguishes yet another Noddy, from the Cocos and Socorro Islands, as *Anous stolidus ridgwayi*, and describes a new Petrel, smaller and with a more forked tail than *O. leucorroha*, as *Oceanodroma kaedingi* sp. n., from the seas between Socorro and Southern California; he also writes a short paper on other sea-birds. Dr. C. Hart Merriam describes *Syrnium occidentale caurinum* subsp. n., from the Puget Sound region; and there are other minor communications of local interest. A Report from the A.O.U. Committee on Protection of North-American Birds covers pp. 81-114, and well deserves attention.

The April number begins with an article by Mr. E. W. Nelson on *Colinus godmani*, with a plate, and on other Mexican Quails; and the same author has another paper on Mexican birds. Mr. Joseph Grinnell gives an account of 66 species of birds found at Sitka, Alaska, in summer; and Dr. W. C. Rivers sends a contribution on the avifauna of the spruce-belt in the mountains of Virginia. Mr. Anthony writes at some length on the Petrels of Southern California. Mr. G. H. MacKay's name is yet again associated with the Terns of Muskeget Island. In a paper on some new races of Birds from Eastern North America, Mr. Outram Bangs resuscitates Audubon's "Bird of Washington" as *Haliaëtus leucocephalus washingtoni*, subsp. restaur., and names seven other subspecies, which will doubtless be duly enumerated by the Recorder of *Aves* in the 'Zoological Record.'

Dr. L. Stejneger states that he has received a fully adult example of *Rhodostethia rosea* from Bering Island, obtained on December 10th, 1895.

56. *Baron on North-Peruvian Humming-birds.*

[Notes on the Localities visited by O. T. Baron in Northern Peru and on the *Trochilidæ* found there. By O. T. Baron. *Novitates Zool.* iv. p. 1.]

Mr. Baron gives a set of very interesting notes on the localities in which the birds collected in Northern Peru and described by Mr. Salvin (*Nov. Zool.* ii. pp. 1-22) were obtained. Near Cajamarca he found nests of *Patagona gigas* on the ground (!), and of *Oreotrochilus stolzmanni* in a cave, attached to the roof. Many other good field-notes on habits and ranges are given.

57. *Bianchi on the Genus Carpodacus.*

[Uebersicht der palæarktischen Arten der Gattung *Carpodacus* Kaup. Von V. Bianchi. Aus dem Russischen übersetzt von M. Härms. *J. f. O.* 1898, p. 102.]

Prof. Bianchi's useful memoir on the Fringilline genus *Carpodacus* has been translated from the original Russian (v. *Ann. Mus. Zool. St. Petersburg.* ii. p. 218, 1897) by M. Härms, and republished in the 'Journal für Ornithologie.' The author acknowledges 25 species of this genus, six belonging to the Nearctic and 19 to the Palæartic Region, in which all but one (*C. erythrinus*) are inhabitants of Alpine districts. Five *Carpodaci* occur within the limits of the Russian Empire, and of two others specimens have been obtained in adjoining countries by Russian explorers. The Palæartic species only are treated of in the present paper.

58. *Blanford's 'Birds of British India.'*

[The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Published under the authority of the Secretary of State for India in Council. Edited by W. T. Blanford. *Birds.* Vol. IV. By W. T. Blanford, F.R.S. 8vo. Pp. i-xxi, 1-500. London: Taylor & Francis, 1898.]

With great pleasure ornithologists will welcome the appearance of the fourth and final volume of the 'Birds of British India.' It will be recollected that after completing

the first two volumes of this excellent work Mr. Oates was ordered back to India, and was consequently unable to complete his task. Dr. Blanford, the general Editor of the 'Fauna,' was therefore compelled to take the matter in hand himself, and issued the third volume in 1895 (see 'Ibis,' 1896, p. 139). Dr. Blanford is also the author of the fourth volume, which contains an account of the Columbæ, Gallinæ, Hemipodii, Grallæ, Limicolæ, Gaviæ, Steganopodes, Tubinæres, Herodiones, Phœnicopteri, Anseres, and Pygopodes of British India, 347 species in all. As in the preceding volume, the work is most carefully and correctly done, and modern vagaries in nomenclature are not usually countenanced. We are pleased to observe that homonyms are abjured and that the White-eyed Duck is called *Nyroca ferruginea* (not *N. africana*!) and the Greenshank *Totanus glottis* (not *Glottis nebularius*!).

59. Chapman on Mexican Birds.

[Notes on Birds observed at Jalapa and Las Vigas, Vera Cruz, Mexico. By Frank M. Chapman. Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. x. p. 15.]

Mr. Chapman commences his paper by calling attention to the attractions offered to the naturalist by the western coast of Vera Cruz, "bisected," as it is, by two lines of railway, which, within a few hours, convey the traveller from the *tierra caliente* through the *tierra templada* to the *tierra fria*, which is reached at an altitude of some 5500 feet. Here the palms and heliconias of the tropical zone and the ferns and coffee-groves of the temperate zone are replaced by forests of oaks and pines, which continue until the arid alpine zone or the *tierra fria seca* is approached, at an altitude of about 8000 feet. From this point to the city of Mexico the treeless region of the great central plateau is traversed.

Mr. Chapman's collections were made in March and April 1897, at two places on the Mexican Railway between Vera Cruz and Mexico—Jalapa and Las Vigas. Jalapa, at a height of 4400 feet, is in the *tierra templada*, and it is now evident that the collections formerly made by de Oca when resident

there contained examples of species belonging to the *tierra caliente* and *tierra fria* which are never met with in that vicinity. Mr. Chapman therefore does well to give us an exact list of the 107 species of which he collected or observed specimens at Jalapa, and thereby fixes their locality. Useful field-notes are added, and the curious pendent nest of *Platypsaris aglaia* is described and figured. Amongst the less-known species met with at Jalapa was the scarce Greenlet *Vireo amauronotus*, which was heard singing daily, and proved to be a common bird in this district.

Forty miles beyond Jalapa lies Las Viguas, in the humid alpine zone on the border of the tableland, at an elevation of 8000 feet. Here the Trogons, Toucans, Tinamous, Antbirds, Tanagers, and other birds of Jalapa are replaced by Juncos, Crossbills, Creepers, Pine-Finches, Evening Grosbeaks, and other forms characteristic of alpine bird-life. In short, an almost complete change of the avifauna has taken place, so that of 108 resident species observed at Jalapa or Las Viguas only three were met with at both places. Examples of 48 species are recorded from Las Viguas.

60. *Decle's Savage Africa.*

[Three Years in Savage Africa. By Lionel Decle. Methuen & Co. 1898. Pp. 594. 8vo.]

Those interested in Africa and its development should not fail to read Mr. Decle's lively narrative of his three years' travel between Cape Town and Mombasa. At the same time the naturalist will be disappointed at the slight attention paid to the animals and plants which must have obtruded themselves everywhere on the traveller's notice. Birds are seldom mentioned. The "marvellous intelligence" of the Honey-guide (*Indicator*) seems to have been personally witnessed in Bechuanaland, and the Oxpicker (*Buphaga*) is characterized (p. 478) as a "new pest of Africa."

61. *Finn on Anser erythropus in India.*

[Note on the Occurrence in India of the Dwarf Goose (*Anser erythropus*), with Exhibition of living Specimens. By F. Finn, B.A., F.Z.S. Proc. Asiatic Soc. Beng. 1898, p. 1.]

Mr. Finn records the exhibition before the Asiatic Society of Bengal of specimens of the Lesser White-fronted Goose (*Anser erythropus*), a species of rare occurrence in British India. Three living examples of it were obtained on January 1st, 1898, from a dealer in Calcutta—who is believed to have received them from Rawul Pindi—and were deposited in the Zoological Garden at Alipore. The “soft parts” in the living bird are carefully described.

62. *Finn on some noteworthy Indian Birds.*

[On some noteworthy Indian Birds. By F. Finn, B.A., F.Z.S. J. A. S. B. lxvi. pt. ii. p. 523.]

Notes are given on *Rhytidoceros narcondami* from the Andamans, *Phasianus humiæ* and its variations (see above, p. 311), and other species. *Nyroca baeri* occurred in the Calcutta bazaar in the cold weather of 1896–97 in far greater numbers than usual. Mr. Finn figures its trachea. We may add that living examples of this Duck have been lately received by the Zoological Society of London from Mr. Finn.

63. *Forbes on an extinct Starling.*

[On an apparently new, and supposed to be now extinct Species of Bird from the Mascarene Islands (previously referred to the Genus *Necropsar*). By H. O. Forbes. Bull. Liv. Mus. i. p. 29 (1898).]

Under the name *Necropsar leguati* Dr. Forbes describes and figures a specimen recently found in a cabinet of the Derby Museum (where it is supposed to have remained undisturbed for nearly fifty years), which was purchased by Lord Derby in 1850 from Verreaux, of Paris, labelled “Madagascar.” It is conjectured that this may be an example of the “little bird” stated by Leguat (‘Relation de d’Ile Rodrigue,’ p. 335) to be found on the Islet au Mat, south of the main island of Rodriguez. Dr. Forbes refers this bird, rather doubtfully, to the genus *Necropsar*, instituted in 1879 by Dr. Günther and Sir Edward Newton for the reception of the subfossil remains of a bird discovered in 1874 by Mr. Slater in Rodriguez (Phil. Trans. vol. 168, p. 427), and believed to be closely allied to *Fregilupus*.

Whether this reference be correct or not, the discovery is one of great interest.

In our notice of Dr. Forbes's paper in the first number of the 'Bulletin' of the Liverpool Museums (Ibis, 1898, p. 161), we regret to find that we omitted to call attention to two new species of Parrots described from specimens in the Derby Museum—namely, *Pæocephalus rubricapillus* from West Africa (op. cit. p. 15) and *Cyanorhamphus magnirostris* from Tahiti (op. cit. p. 21).

64. Hartert on the Birds of Flores.

[On the Birds collected by Mr. Everett in South Flores. Part I. By Ernst Hartert. Novitates Zool. iv. p. 513.]

Mr. Hartert now gives us the first part of his account of Mr. Alfred Everett's collection in Flores, to the avifauna of which considerable additions are thus made. Preliminary descriptions of some of the new species have already appeared (see Ibis, 1897, p. 443), but *Phyllergates everetti*, *Zosterops unica*, *Culicicapa ceylonensis sejuncta*, and *Pisorhina alfredi* are now added. Altogether 64 species are enumerated. The curious *Pachycephala nudigula* and two species of *Zosterops* (*Z. crassirostris* and *Z. superciliaris*) are figured.

65. Hartert on various Humming-birds.

[Various Notes on Humming-birds. By Ernst Hartert. Novitates Zool. iv. p. 529.]

Mr. Hartert writes on 14 species of Trochilidæ, chiefly on points of nomenclature. He describes *Eriocnemis mosquera bogotensis*, *E. berlepschi*, and *Heliangelus dubius* as new.

66. Harvie-Brown on the Migration of Birds.

[The Migration of Birds; a Paper addressed to the Lighthouse-keepers of the English Channel and to the local Ornithologists of the Counties abutting thereon. By J. A. Harvie-Brown. Zoologist, 1897, p. 505.]

Mr. Harvie-Brown appeals to the ornithologists of the South of England for assistance in recording observations on the migration of birds on this coast. On behalf of the

Committee of the British Association on Migration, he asks for returns on the subject from the lighthouses between Varne on the east and Start on the west, and the services of some resident naturalist to supervise these returns, the absence of which causes a serious blot in the Digest of the Reports of the Committee prepared by Mr. Eagle Clarke.

67. *Lee's Photographs of British Birds.*

[Among British Birds in their Nesting-Haunts, illustrated by the Camera. By Oswin A. J. Lee. Pts. VIII.-XI. 4to. Edinburgh: 1898.]

The species figured in their breeding-haunts are:—
 Part VIII.: *Turdus musicus*, *Podiceps cristatus*, *Stercorarius catarrhactes* (2 plates), *Syrnium aluco* (2 plates), *Panurus biarmicus*, *Numenius arquata* (2 plates), *Chrysomitris spinus*.
 Part IX.: *Stercorarius crepidatus* (2 plates), *Totanus calidris*, *Cotile riparia*, *Uria grylle*, *Turdus torquatus*, *Sterna fluvialilis* (2 plates), *Phalaropus hyperboreus*, *Phylloscopus sibilatrix*.
 Part X.: *Sterna macrura*, *Mergus merganser*, *Fringilla* [melius *Ligurinus*] *chloris*, *Larus canus*, *Cuculus canorus* (2 plates), *Accentor modularis*, *Corvus cornix*, *Parus cæruleus*, *Numenius phæopus*.
 Part XI.: *Erithacus rubecula*, *Troglodytes parvulus*, *Corvus frugilegus* (2 plates), *Parus palustris*, *Aquila chrysaëtus* (2 plates), *Muscicapa grisola*, *Querquedula crecca*, *Phasianus colchicus*. All these are quite up to the level of their predecessors, while the vignettes are excellent. Among the latter we would call attention to the illustration of the Goosander bringing its young in its bill from the recesses of a hollow tree, so narrow that it seems marvellous how the old bird could reach the exit; while the letterpress with regard to this species is of unusual interest. All the letterpress is good, and for especial commendation we may select the author's practical remarks upon the egg-stealing proclivities of the over-praised Rook. With regard to the Golden Eagle, Mr. Lee may have good grounds for asserting that "sometimes" it "may be seen sailing majestically over the Border hills"; but we fancy that few persons have been privileged to witness the sight—*on the Borders*. The two

vignettes of the Golden Eagle are, however, so spirited as to make amends for any trifling licence with regard to locality.

68. *Lilford's 'Coloured Figures of British Birds.'*

[Coloured Figures of the Birds of the British Islands. Issued by Lord Lilford, F.Z.S., &c., President of the British Ornithologists' Union. Part XXXIII., November 1896; XXXIV., April 1897; XXXV., November 1897; XXXVI.]

We have now the pleasure of recording the completion of this valuable work by the issue, since we last mentioned it (*Ibis*, 1896, p. 574), of the four final parts, which have been carefully prepared for the press by Mr. Salvin. No more fitting memorial could have been devised for our much-lamented friend, the late President of the B.O.U., than the accomplishment of this excellent piece of work, whereby the name of Lilford will be kept long in the mind of future generations of ornithologists. Lilford's 'Coloured Figures of British Birds' is, without doubt, the best series of illustrations of our feathered favourites that has yet been prepared, and will in all probability long remain so. Its popularity is sufficiently manifest from the simple fact that two editions, of 550 and 400 copies respectively, have been completely exhausted before the last numbers were issued. Happy is the man who sees the seven volumes of Lilford's 'British Birds' on the shelves of his ornithological library. Here is not only a treasure in itself for study and reference on his own subject, but a work that will become still more valuable in future generations.

The following species are illustrated in Parts XXXIII.-XXXV.:—

Part XXXIII. *Saxicola isabellina*; *Motacilla borealis*; *Pyrrhula major*; *Emberiza cioides*; *Caprimulgus ægyptius*; *Coccyzus americanus*; *Phœnicopterus roseus*; *Mareca americana*; *Phasianus colchicus*, *P. torquatus*; *Vanellus gregarius*; *Sterna fuliginosa*.

Part XXXIV. *Alauda cristata*; *Lynx torquilla*; *Otis macqueeni*; *Eudromias morinellus*; *Phalaropus hyperboreus*; *Tringa fuscicollis*; *Totanus flavipes*, *T. fuscus*; *Pelagodroma marina*:

Puffinus anglorum ; *Fulmarus glacialis* ; *Colymbus adamsi*.

Part XXXV. *Phylloscopus proregulus*, *P. viridanus*; *Ardea virescens*; *Cygnus olor*; *Anas carolinensis*, *A. discors*; *Porphyrio cœruleus*; *Tringa minutilla*; *Sterna anæsthera*; *Procellaria cryptoleucura*; *Æstrelata hæsitata*, *Æ. brevipes*; *Colymbus arcticus*.

The final Part (XXXVI.) contains a portrait of the author, titlepages, dedication, preface, and contents of the seven volumes, together with a list of the subscribers and a general index.

69. *Malischeff on Nerve-endings in the Stomach and Œsophagus.*

[Einige Bemerkungen über die Nervenendigungen im Œsophagus und Magen der Vögel. Von N. Malischeff. Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou, 1897, no. 2, pp. 278-289 (8 woodcuts).]

The method of investigation adopted by the author is that of Ramon y Cajal, who has studied the nervous system so successfully. Dr. Malischeff has found that in the œsophagus the nerves supplying the glandular epithelium end in fine plexuses of varicose fibres, which, however, do not apparently penetrate the gland-cells themselves. In the gizzard the nerve-fibres end in small swellings, which are closely applied to the gland-cells. In some cases there was no network of fibres to be found, but in the gizzard of *Parus major* a network occurs, which is figured and described.

70. *Naturalist's Directory.*

[The Naturalist's Directory : for the use of Students of Natural History and Collectors of Zoological, Botanical, or Geological Specimens, giving the Names and Addresses of British and Foreign Naturalists, Natural History Agents, Societies and Field Clubs, Museums, Magazines, &c. 1898. 8vo. London: L. Upcott Gill. 1898.]

This is a cheap publication (price 1s.), and contains many of the most obvious addresses that the working naturalist would require, although it cannot of course compete with the 'Zoologisches Adressbuch.' But the Foreign and Colonial

list is far from complete, and the advertisements inserted in the middle of the text are sad blots to it.

71. *Nelson on new Birds from Tres Marias Islands.*

[Descriptions of new Birds from the Tres Marias Islands, Western Mexico. By E. W. Nelson. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, xii. p. 5.]

The specimens on which these descriptions are based were obtained by the author and Mr. E. A. Goldman, his assistant, during a visit to the Tres Marias group off the west coast of Mexico, in May 1897. The species and subspecies are named:—*Columba flavirostris madrensis*, *Leptotila* (ser. *Leptoptila*) *capitalis*, *Buteo borealis fumosus*, *Polyborus cheriway pallidus*, *Trogon ambiguus goldmani*, *Nyctidromus albicollis insularis*, *Myiopagis placens minimus*, *Cardinalis cardinalis mariæ*, *Vireo hypochryseus sordidus*, *Melanotus cærulescens longirostris*, and *Thryothorus lawrencii magdalenaë*. All these are from Maria Madre Island, except the last, which is from Magdalena. A complete account of this most interesting insular avifauna is in preparation.

72. *Neumann on the Birds of Eastern Equatorial Africa.*

[Elephant-hunting in East Equatorial Africa, being an account of three Years' Ivory-hunting under Mount Kenia and among the Ndorobo Savages of the Lorogi Mountains, including a Trip to the North End of Lake Rudolph. By Arthur H. Neumann. With numerous Illustrations by J. G. Millais, E. Caldwell, and G. E. Lodge. Coloured Plate and Map. Royal 8vo. London: Rowland Ward, 1898.]

Mr. Neumann's recently-published account of his explorations and huntings in the northern portion of British East Africa, although chiefly devoted to elephants and the larger mammals, contains several interesting notices of birds, and is well worthy of perusal. Mr. Neumann refers more than once to the occurrence of birds on Lake Rudolph, "in astonishing numbers and great variety"—"Pelicans sitting sleepily on the water and shoals, secure from crocodiles (for I watched one swim through a flock), or flying in skeins to and fro; flocks of Gulls and Terns; Storks, Herons of various kinds, Ibises, Egrets, and many other small Waders, with

countless Cormorants in two sizes, besides numerous Egyptian Geese." Quite new to us is the habit of the Rosy Bee-eater (*Merops nubicus*) in perching on the back of the Bustard (*Eupodotis kori*) and capturing its insect-food thence, like a Flycatcher. Mr. Neumann has even seen two Bee-eaters sitting on one "Paauw." In the same way (see Mr. J. G. Millais's beautiful drawing, p. 293) the Egrets perch on the elephants, "the pure white plumage of the birds contrasting picturesquely with the dark bodies of their great hosts." It would appear that in "Rudolphia," as this northern part of British East Africa may well be called, the Egyptian Goose nests in trees, probably in other birds' nests, and is not unfrequently robbed of its eggs by Vultures.

73. *North on the Birds of Cumberland County, New South Wales.*

[The Birds of the County of Cumberland. By Alfred J. North, C.M.Z.S. Reprinted from 'Handbook of Sydney and the County of Cumberland.' 12mo. Melbourne, Sydney, &c.: 1898.]

Mr. North sends us a little article on the birds of the County of Cumberland, New South Wales, reprinted from the 'Handbook' of Sydney and its environs, prepared for the use of the Members of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science at their Meeting at Sydney in January last. It contains short notes on 261 species of birds. This is classical ground for the ornithologist, as the Australian birds described by Latham were mostly obtained during Cook's stay at Botany Bay, and the species of Vigors and Horsfield were based on specimens collected near Parramatta by Cayley.

74. *Praeger on the Birds of Rockall Island.*

[Notes on an Expedition to Rockall. By R. Lloyd Praeger, B.E. Irish Naturalist, vi. p. 309.]

This is a pleasantly-written journal of the expedition sent out by the Royal Irish Academy in charge of Mr. W. S. Green in June 1896 to visit Rockall and to endeavour to

effect a landing. Numerous allusions to birds are made. The official account of the expedition has been published in the 'Transactions' of the Academy, vol. xxxi. pt. 3, 1897 (see above, p. 302).

75. *Rothschild, Hartert, and Kleinschmidt on Comatibis eremita.*

[*Comatibis eremita* (Linn.), a European Bird. By Walter Rothschild, Ernst Hartert, and O. Kleinschmidt. *Novitates Zool.* iv. p. 371.]

The discovery that *Ibis comata* (Dresser, B. Eur. vi. p. 329, pl. 408) was formerly an inhabitant of certain localities in Central Europe is exceedingly curious. But there seems to be no doubt that the authors have made out their case, and that this bird was really the *Corvus sylvaticus* of Gesner, upon which Linnæus based his *Upupa eremita*. In Gesner's time (1555) it nested among the rocks in Styria, Bavaria, and Switzerland, as in these days it does in Morocco, Algeria, and on the Upper Euphrates.

76. *Salvadori on a new Francolin.*

[Reliquie Ornitologiche della Spedizione Bottego. Per T. Salvadori. *Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova*, xxxviii. p. 652.]

Among the relics recovered of the unfortunate Bottego Expedition in East Africa were three birdskins which were sent to the Museo Civico of Genoa. One of them belongs to a new Francolin, which is described as *Francolinus bottegi*. It was obtained at Burgi among the Badditù in April 1896.

77. *Sanyal on Birds in the Alipur Zoological Gardens.*

[Note on the Breeding of various Birds (Hérons and Cormorants) in a wild state in the Alipur Zoological Gardens. By Ram Brahma Sanyal. *Proc. A. Soc. Bengal*, 1897, p. 86.]

Ram Brahma Sanyal, C.M.Z.S., the well-known Superintendent of the Calcutta Zoological Gardens, describes the flocks of wild Paddy-birds, Night-Hérons, and Pigmy Cormorants that resort to the ornamental waters of the gardens for breeding and other purposes. To these have lately been

added a few Snake-birds (*Plotus melanogaster*), which it is trusted will also be induced to make their nests there.

78. *Seebohm's 'Monograph of the Thrushes.'*

[A Monograph of the Turdidæ, or Family of Thrushes. By the late Henry Seebohm. Edited and completed (after the Author's death) by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. Part II. Imperial 4to. London: Henry Sotheran & Co., 1898.]

The second part of this beautifully-illustrated monograph (see above, p. 309) continues the account of the Geocichline group of Thrushes, and contains figures of the following species:—*Geocichla piaggiæ*, *G. machiki*, *G. peronii*, *G. erythronota*, *G. interpres*, *G. dohertyi*, *G. leucolema*, *G. cyanonota*, *G. albigularis*, *G. citrina*, *G. innotata*, *G. andamanensis*, *G. rubecula*, *G. aurata*, *G. everetti*, and *G. monticola*.

79. *Somow on the Birds of Kharkow.*

[Faune ornithologique du gouvernement de Kharkow. Par N. Somow. Pp. i-ix, 1-680. 8vo. Kharkow, 1897.]

This is a systematic work of 680 pages octavo on the birds of the Government of Kharkow in Southern Russia. It is in Russian, with only the scientific names in Latin. We cannot, therefore, say much more of it than that 292 species are included in the avifauna.

80. *Worcester and Bourns on Philippine Ornithology.*

[Contributions to Philippine Ornithology. By Dean C. Worcester and Frank S. Bourns. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus. xx. p. 549.]

This essay, which seems to have been written mainly by Mr. Worcester, should be studied carefully, not only by those interested in the ornithology of the Philippines, but also by all who are concerned in the subjects of Distribution and Geographical Variation, in which, as is well known, the group of islands in question furnishes an ample field of observation. The first part of it contains a list of the birds as yet ascertained to inhabit the Philippine and Palawan groups, and shows their occurrence or absence in 37 islands of the

two series. The systematic arrangement adopted—we are not quite sure as to its origin—commences with the Gallinaceous birds and ends with *Pitta*! The Philippine species number 526, besides which species that occur in the Palawan group, but have not yet been found in the Philippines, are introduced in their proper places. Upon this list, as a base, the author proceeds, in the second part of his memoir, to discuss the many and complicated questions connected with the distribution of the birds. Every island is taken in order, a list of its known species is given, and their relationships are discussed. The main conclusions ultimately arrived at seem to be somewhat as follows:—Mr. Everett's view that Palawan and its satellites belong to the Bornean and not to the Philippine group of islands is amply confirmed on evidence believed to be "incontrovertible." Turning now to the Philippine ornithology proper, containing 526 species, of which not less than 323 are "apparently confined quite strictly to the group," Mr. Worcester discusses at length the five "subprovinces" into which Dr. J. B. Steere has proposed to divide the Philippine area, and shows that they are not maintainable. Nor is Mr. Worcester more satisfied with Steere's proposition that each genus is "represented by but a single species in one place." It is shown pretty clearly that this rule does not hold good. We cannot here follow Mr. Worcester into his study of the "factors in the origin and distribution" of the Philippine land-birds. They are illustrated by a map and numerous tables and diagrams. There is also given a very useful list of the titles of the principal recent authorities on the Philippine ornithology.

XXXIX.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters, addressed "to the Editors of 'The Ibis'" :—

SIRS,—In the third volume of the 'Revista do Museu Paulista,' which I have now in preparation, there will be an important paper by Carl Euler on the nesting of Brazilian